

45 RANCH

373

Location

Ecoregion Section: OWYHEE UPLANDS SECTION (342C)

Watershed: 17050105003

County: Owyhee

USGS Quad: GRASSY RIDGE 4211627

SPRING CREEK BASIN 4211628

LAT: 421030N S: 421000N E: 1165200W

LONG: 1165230W N: 421053N W: 1165235W

Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)

014S005W 25 BO SW4NW4, W2SW4

014S005W 36 BO NE4NW4

Directions:

45 Ranch is located along the South Fork Owyhee River, just downstream of the South Fork Owyhee River and Little Owyhee River confluence; ca 54 miles west of the highway on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

Site Design

Designer:

Date: 96-11-25

Design Justification:

Site boundaries coincide with private land inholding boundaries.

Site Comments:

Location of plots 97RM022-024.

Biological and Physical Characteristics

Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 240.00

Primary Acres: 240.00

Elevation (ft). Minimum: 4330

Maximum: 4904

Site Description:

The 45 Ranch inholding is a wide spot in the South Fork Owyhee River Canyon surrounded by BLM land. During the summer, the South Fork is a wide, relatively shallow, slow-moving river through this stretch of canyon. It makes a big sweep through the 45 Ranch after exiting through the steep-walled canyon upstream. The valley is about 0.5 km wide here and most of the river terrace is cultivated for hay. A narrow riparian zone borders the river and *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* occurs on the slopes. The channel of the Little Owyhee River (which flows only during flood events) has a beaver pond at its mouth and ephemeral wash vegetation above. The beaver pond and the South Fork have extensive aquatic beds in them, mostly *Ranunculus aquaticus*, *Potamogeton pectinatus*, *P. nodosus*, and *Sparganium emersum*.

Key Environmental Factors:

The distribution of riparian and wetland vegetation is controlled by the surface flows along the South Fork and by both surface (spring run-off and flash floods) and subsurface flows on the Little Owyhee. Substrate is volcanic.

Climate:

Landuse History:

The 45 Ranch was started as a horse ranch in 1880 and once had as many as 5,000 horses.

Cultural Features:

The ranch has two houses with a family living there year-around.

Element Occurrences (element/size):

ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA TRIDENTATA/ELYMUS CINEREUS
SCIRPUS PUNGENS

5 AC

10+

ARTEMISIA LUDOVICIANA

5 AC

ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA WYOMINGENSIS/FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS

40+ AC

HAPLOPAPPUS UNIFLORUS VAR HOWELLII

4 AC

TEUCRIUM CANADENSE VAR OCCIDENTALE

Biodiversity Significance: B3

The ranch is home to bighorn sheep, mule deer, sage grouse, antelope, mountain lion, bobcats, river otter and several species of fish, including the rare redband trout. Two rare plants occur at the site.

Teucrium canadense, a beautiful, red-flowered mint occurs in the riparian zone along the South Fork and one-flowered goldenweed, a showy member of the sunflower family, occurs in the ephemeral river bed of the Little Owyhee.

Other Values: V2

The 45 Ranch has an aura about it, largely because of it's serious isolation in one of the largest tracts of uninhabited land in the lower 48 states. It is a cool place.

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: TNC PRESERVE

Protection Comments:

Information Needs:

Protection Urgency:

Management Needs:

The portion of the site that is currently in irrigated hay used to be the Artemisia tridentata tridentata/Elymus cinereus community. An excellent, but small, reference stand of this type occurs across the river if restoration is ever considered for the hay field.

Management Urgency: M3

Management of cattle on surrounding BLM allotments is currently being reevaluated.

Current Landuse:

Onsite: Much of the river terrace is currently cultivated; cattle graze much of the area as well.

Offsite: Water quality through the site is affected by upstream uses.

Exotic Species Comments:

Record Maintenance

Lead Responsibility:

Edition Date: 97-11-25 **Edition Author:** L. Williams

TRIplet BUTTE
256

Location

Ecoregion Section: OWYHEE UPLANDS SECTION (342C)

Watershed: 17050102

County: Owyhee

USGS Quad: TRIplet BUTTE 4211516

LAT: 420115N S: 420043N E: 1153757W

LONG: 1153815W N: 420159N W: 1153852W

Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)

016S007E 16 BO SW4

016S007E 21 BO PORTION

016S007E 28 BO N2N2NE4

Directions:

Triplet Butte lies along the West Fork Bruneau River 1.5 miles north of the Idaho/Nevada border, about 45 air miles southeast of Grasmere.

Site Design

Designer: Wellner, Caicco, Moseley

Date: 87-10-01

Design Justification:

Boundaries of the site were drawn to include the mesa and canyon slope of Triplet Butte and a portion of the Bruneau River to include high quality vegetation and minimize conflicts.

Site Comments:

Location of plots 97RM018-019.

Biological and Physical Characteristics

Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 372.00

Primary Acres: 372.00

Elevation (ft). Minimum: 4660

Maximum: 6013

Site Description:

Triplet Butte RNA/ACEC consists of Triplet Butte and the canyonsides extending from the butte and ridges to the north and south down to the river. The area contains undisturbed examples of several shrubland types. The low sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass type is found on the summit plateau. Low sagebrush also occurs on the northeast slope of the butte, but with an understory dominated by Idaho fescue. Lower east-facing slopes are occupied by the Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass type. Mountain big sagebrush/Idaho fescue is scattered among pockets of deeper soils on the east- and northeast-facing slopes of the butte. A large stand of Rocky Mountain juniper occurs on the east face of the butte and in small areas below the east rim of the butte. A narrow riparian zone occurs along the Bruneau River.

Key Environmental Factors: Substrate is volcanic.

Climate:

Landuse History:

Cultural Features:

Element Occurrences (element/size):

CORNUS SERICEA	0 NO DET.
SALIX EXIGUA/MESIC GRAMINOID	5
ARTEMISIA ARBUSCULA ARBUSCULA/FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS	20 AC
ARTEMISIA ARBUSCULA ARBUSCULA/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	30 AC
ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA VASEYANA/FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS	5 AC
ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA WYOMINGENSIS/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	40 AC
JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM/MESIC FORB	5

Biodiversity Significance: B3

The uplands contain representative examples of high quality communities. The riparian communities have localized impacts from cattle.

Other Values:

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
STATE ENDOWMENT LANDS

Current Landuse:

Onsite: Little human use takes place in the site. Cattle wander down the river bottom and have localized impacts, especially in the Rocky mountain juniper stands, which are probably used for shade.

Offsite:

Exotic Species Comments:

Many of the river terraces have a plethora of exotic, rhizomatous pasture grasses such as Bromus inermis, Poa pratensis, Phleum pratense, and Agrostis stolonifera. These either were dispersed from upstream ranches or, more likely, they were seeded.

MA Comments:

Site occurs within Lower Snake River District BLM, Owyhee RA, state land within Owyhee County; and within Triplet Butte RNA/ACEC and Bruneau-Jarbridge River ACEC.

References

U83CAI05IDUS Caicco, S. L., and C. A. Wellner. 1983. Research Natural Area recommendation for Triplet Butte, BLM Boise District, ID. Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee mimeo report. 15 pp

U87BLM01IDUS Bureau of Land Management. 1987. Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern recommendation for Triplet Butte, addendum to 1983 RNA recommendation report. 3 pp. plus map.

Record Maintenance

Lead Responsibility: USIDHP

Edition Date: 97-12-09 Edition Author: R.K. Moseley